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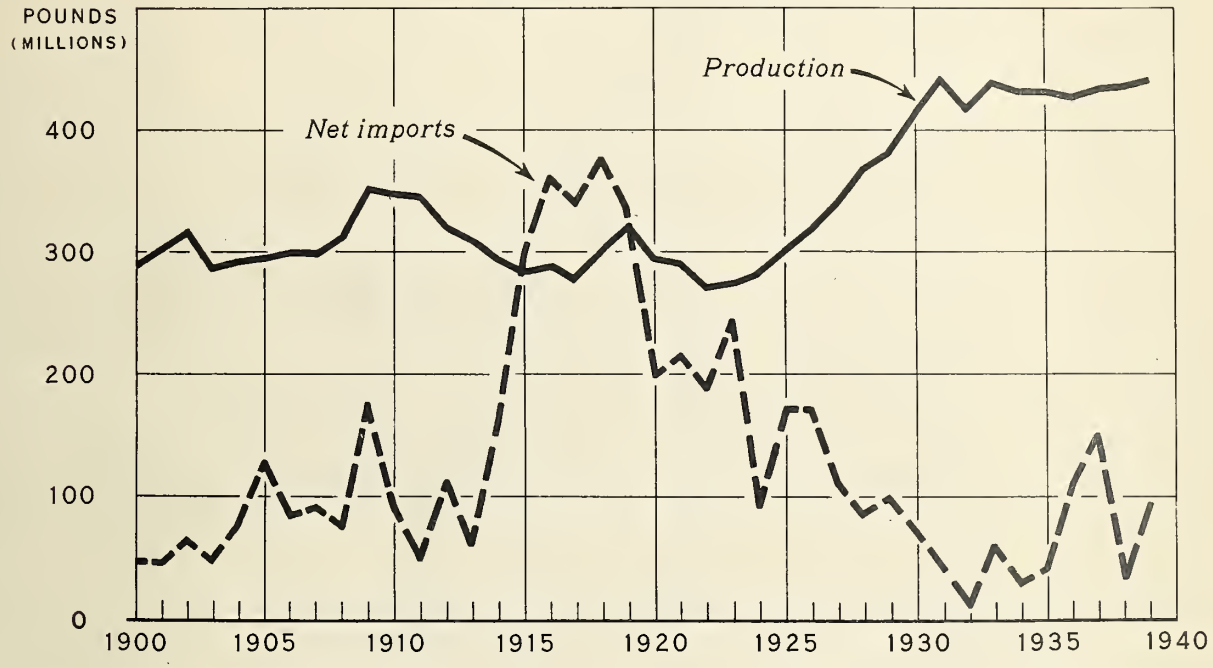
WOOL-39

MARCH 12, 1940

THE WOOL SITUATION

WOOL, APPAREL: PRODUCTION AND NET IMPORTS, UNITED STATES, 1900-1939



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 19803 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

PRODUCTION OF WOOL IN THE UNITED STATES INCREASED SHARPLY FROM 1922 TO 1931, BUT HAS NOT CHANGED MUCH SINCE 1933. THIS LARGER DOMESTIC PRODUCTION HAS GREATLY REDUCED IMPORT REQUIREMENTS. BUT IN PERIODS OF RELATIVELY LARGE DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION SUCH AS 1935-37 AND 1939, ANNUAL IMPORTS OF APPAREL WOOL INTO THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN AS MUCH AS 100 MILLION POUNDS.

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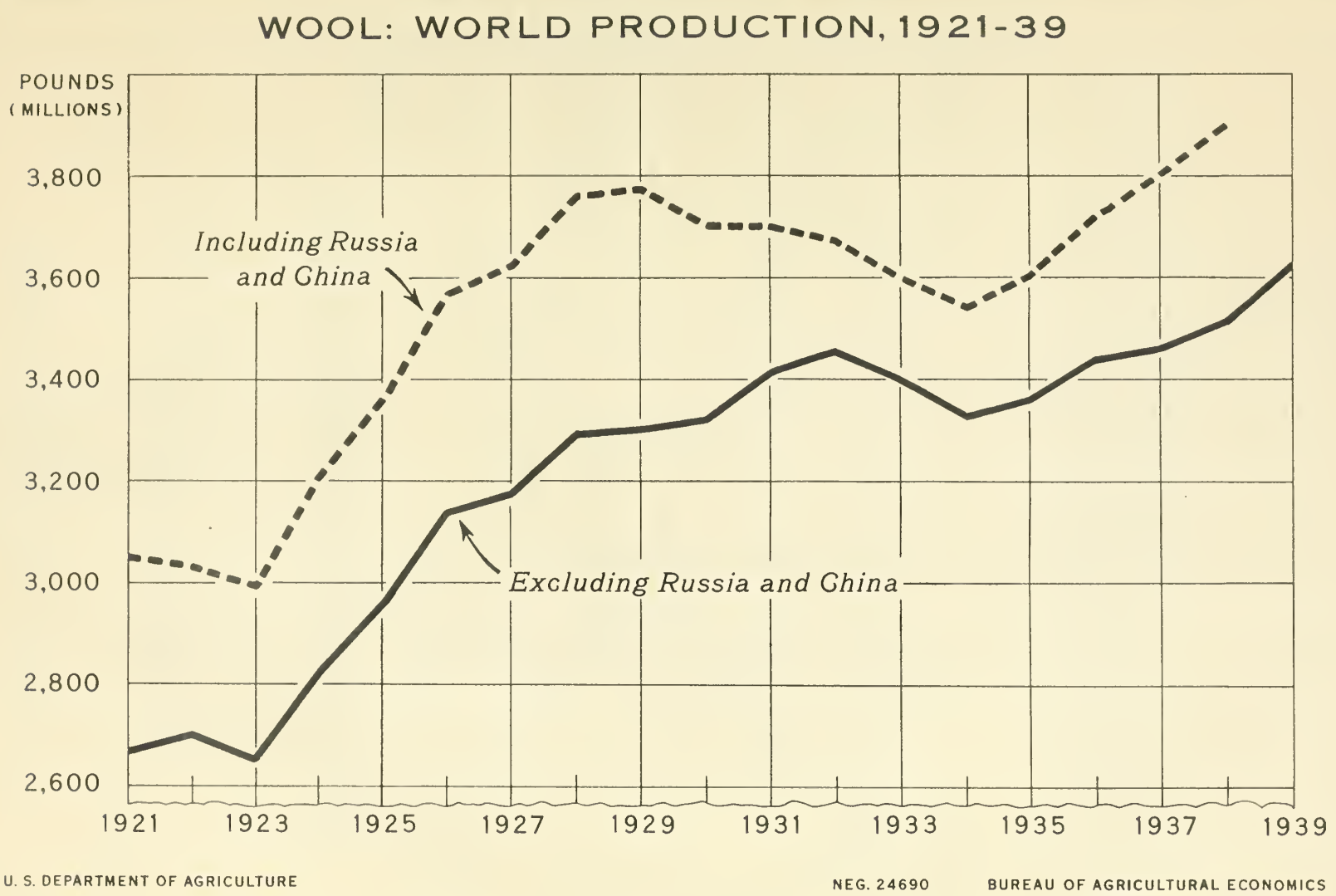

FIG. 1- WORLD WOOL PRODUCTION APPARENTLY REACHED A NEW PEAK IN 1939. TOTAL 1939 PRODUCTION (EXCLUSIVE OF RUSSIA AND CHINA WHICH PRODUCE MOSTLY CARPET WOOL) IS PROVISIONALLY ESTIMATED AT 3.6 BILLION POUNDS. THIS IS ABOUT 3 PERCENT GREATER THAN PRODUCTION IN 1938 AND IS ABOUT 7 PERCENT LARGER THAN THE 5-YEAR (1933-37) AVERAGE.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Summary

Domestic supply conditions continue relatively favorable for the marketing of the 1940 domestic wool clip. Even if imports in February and March are relatively large, the carry-over in the United States into the new season which begins April 1 is likely to be the smallest in recent years. Domestic mill consumption in 1940, on the other hand, may not be so large as in 1939, when consumption of apparel wool exceeded domestic production of shorn and pulled wool by about 190 million pounds.

Developments in foreign wool markets in the next few months are not likely to weaken the domestic situation. Prices have advanced sharply in South America and South Africa since the early part of January. Supplies of good quality wools in those countries are reported to be clearing rapidly. Only small quantities of Australian wool are being released to neutral countries, and selling prices of such wool are fixed by the British Government Wool Control.

Mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States in January was slightly larger than in December and was 9 percent larger than in January 1939 Unfilled orders for woven cloth held by reporting mills on January 1 were abou equal to those of a year earlier and were about 50 percent larger than orders held at the beginning of 1938.

Sales of domestic wool at Boston continued small in February. Prices were somewhat irregular but quotations on most grades were largely nominal. Interest in the domestic market has shifted to the 1940 clip, but as yet there is little information concerning prices for new clip wools.

World wool production apparently reached a new peak in 1939. Productio in 1939, exclusive of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and China, is

provisionally estimated at 3.6 billion pounds. The 1939 estimate is about 3 percent greater than production in 1938 and is about 7 percent larger than the 5-year (1933-37) average. The increase in production in 1939 was due chiefly to the estimated increase of 125 million pounds in the production of Australia and the Union of South Africa. Production declined slightly in New Zealand, Argentina, and Uruguay in 1939.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN DOMESTIC SITUATION

Sales of domestic wool small in February, prices irregular

Domestic wool prices were somewhat irregular in February. Prices of fine grades of territory and bright fleece wools declined during the month, but higher prices were reported for low 1/4 blood and coarser grades sold at Boston. Sales of wool at Boston were small and quotations on many grades were largely nominal. Interest in the domestic wool market is now shifting to the 1940 clip. Early shearing has begun in Arizona and California, but as yet there is little information concerning prices for new clip wools.

Good French combing length fine territory wools in original bags were quoted at 90-93 cents a pound, scoured basis, in the week ended March 2 compared with 95-97 cents a pound a month earlier. Prices of territory 3/8 blood graded combing wools averaged 81 cents a pound the last week of February, unchanged from a month earlier. Prices of low 1/4 blood territory wools averaged 78.5 cents a pound, scoured basis, the week ended March 2. This was 5.5 cents a pound higher than prices reported for the week ended February 3.

Country packed mixed grade lots of 3/8 and 1/4 blood bright fleece wools were available at 36-38 cents a pound, grease basis, in the week ended March 2 compared with 41-42 cents a month earlier. Quotations for graded fine combing (delaine) bright fleece wools averaged 38.5 cents a pound, grease basis, for the week ended March 2 and 39.5 cents a month earlier.

Prices for graded domestic wools on the Boston market at the end of February were about 15 percent below the high point reached in September but were about 35 percent higher than before the sharp rise in September. February prices were about 35 percent higher than a year earlier.

Foreign wools sold at Boston

Sales of fine and medium grades of foreign wool at Boston were small in February but there was a moderate demand for South American coarse crossbred wools. Prices of medium and coarse grades of South American wools advanced during February.

Mill consumption relatively large in January

Weekly average mill consumption of apparel wool in January was 5,638,000 pounds, scoured basis. The January rate of consumption was slightly higher than that of December and was 9 percent higher than that of January 1939. Consumption in January was about 25 percent larger than average January consumption in the 10 years 1929-38.

Mill consumption on a grease basis in the 5 weeks ended February 3 was equivalent to 49 million pounds of shorn wool and 7 million pounds of pulled wool. In the entire year 1939 consumption on a grease basis was equivalent to 551 million pounds of shorn wool and 79 million pounds of pulled wool.

Mill orders for woven fabrics

Unfilled orders for woven cloth held by 119 mills reporting on January 1 were about equal to those of a year earlier and were about 50 percent larger than orders reported at the beginning of 1938, according to statistics reported by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. Mill sales of woven fabrics declined sharply in November and December following the rush of orders in September. Sales of men's wear fabrics continued seasonally small through February. New fall lines of men's wear fabrics will be offered by mills in March.

Unfilled orders for woven cloth reported by 119 mills, beginning of each quarter, 1938-40 1/

Quarter beginning	Men's wear		Women's wear	Auto cloths 2/	Total
	Government	Other			
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards
1938					
Jan.	3,944	10,924	6,043	2,055	22,966
Apr.	2,293	6,293	4,139	1,894	14,619
July	995	13,286	8,041	1,315	23,637
Oct.	785	13,777	6,541	1,968	23,071
1939					
Jan.	844	24,456	8,951	1,782	36,033
Apr.	565	22,905	5,252	834	29,556
July	661	19,913	11,526	1,824	33,924
Oct.	635	31,887	9,260	3,244	45,026
1940					
Jan.	1,376	23,438	9,204	2,005	36,023

Compiled from Monthly Statistics of Wool Manufacture, published by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers.

Statistics are for cloth containing by weight over 25 percent of yarns spun on the woolen and worsted system. Cloth less than 50 inches wide reported in equivalent 54-inch yardage. The 119 mills are equipped with 27,000 looms.

1/ Reports are for specified dates near the beginning of each quarter.

2/ Excludes cloth with pile or jacquard design.

Wool imports large in January

United States imports for consumption of apparel wool totaled 24.3 million pounds in January compared with 15.9 million pounds in December and 6.1 million pounds in January 1939. Imports for consumption of carpet wool totaled 20.5 million pounds in January, 9.8 million pounds in December and 15.7 million pounds in January 1939. January imports, both of apparel and carpet wool, were the largest for any month since March 1937.

United States imports of wools grading "finer than 40s" came chiefly from Australia and Uruguay in 1939, but imports from the Union of South Africa were much larger than in any recent year. Imports of carpet wool and other wools grading "not finer than 40s" came chiefly from Argentina and British India. Imports by countries of production in 1939 are shown in the accompanying table.

Wool: Imports for consumption, by principal countries of production, United States, 1939

Country of production	Carpet wool including camel hair	Apparel wool: Not finer than 40s 1/	Apparel wool: Finer than 40s
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Argentina	45,609	13,932	8,079
Australia	34	257	29,113
New Zealand	8,019	5,640	6,697
Uruguay	598	634	16,062
Chile	0	0	1,217
Union of South Africa	1,196	0	8,329
British India	38,236	552	0
United Kingdom	10,157	1,475	2,211
Ireland	2,513	177	217
Syria	8,386	167	0
Iraq	10,520	0	0
France	4,052	290	13
China	2,663	156	0
Egypt	4,126	38	0
Canada	70	135	2,015
All other	8,695	129	658
Total	144,874	23,582	74,611

Compiled from Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce, December 1939.

1/ Wools grading "not finer than 40s" may be imported free of duty if used for floor covering, press cloths, knit or felt boots, or heavy fulled lumbermen's socks. In the last 5 years about one-fifth of the imports of such wool have been duty free.

DOMESTIC OUTLOOK

Carry-over into 1940 smallest in recent years

Domestic supply conditions continue relatively favorable for the marketing of the 1940 wool clip in the United States. Mill consumption of apparel wool in the first 10 months (April-January) of the 1939-40 season was about equal to the estimated production of shorn and pulled wool for 1939 plus imports through January 31. Domestic mill consumption of apparel wool averaged more than 50 million pounds (grease basis) a month, from April through January Even if imports of apparel wool in February and March are considerably above average, the carry-over of wool into the new season which begins April 1 is likely to be smaller than a year earlier and the smallest carry-over in recent years.

Production, imports, and mill consumption of apparel wool, grease basis, in the United States, annual 1935-38 and April-January 1938-40

Year and month	Production	General imports 1/	Mill consumption 2/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
1935-36	431	83	673
1936-37	427	164	582
1937-38	433	60	407
1938-39	436	49	3/ 544
Apr.-Jan. 1938-39	4/ 436	33	451
Apr.-Jan. 1939-40	4/ 442	5/ 107	538

Import figures from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Consumption figures from the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Weight as reported, greasy, scoured and skin wool added together.

2/ These are preliminary consumption figures. The revised totals, which are somewhat larger than preliminary figures, are not available on a clip-year basis.

3/ Bureau of the Census figure adjusted to 52-week basis.

4/ Production for entire year.

5/ Partly estimated.

Prospects for consumption in 1940

It was stated in the February issue of the Wool Situation that domestic mill consumption in 1940 may not be so large as in 1939. In recent years there has been a decided tendency for a decrease in consumption to follow a year of increasing consumption such as 1939. In 1939 mill consumption was 30 percent greater than in 1938; except for 1935 it was larger than in any recent year. Consumer incomes in 1940 probably will be greater than in 1939, however, and the stimulating effect of this on retail sales will be a strengthening influence on domestic mill consumption of wool.

Moderate decline in consumption in 1940 would not necessarily increase carry-over

Mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States in 1939 exceeded domestic production of shorn and pulled wool by about 190 million pounds. No material change in wool production is in prospect for 1940. As previously stated, the carry-over into the 1940 season is likely to be the smallest in recent years. Hence a moderate decline in mill consumption in 1940 would not result in a large carry-over of wool at the end of the 1940 season, unless imports in 1940 are relatively large.

Developments in foreign markets not expected to weaken domestic market

Developments in foreign wool markets in the next few months are not likely to weaken the domestic situation. Supplies of good quality wools in South America and South Africa are reported to be clearing rapidly. While such reports are not fully supported by export statistics through January of the current season, the difficulty of securing shipping space, particularly to European countries, probably has caused the volume of sales to be considerably larger than exports. Prices have advanced sharply in South Africa and South America since the early part of January. Production of wool in Australia in the 1939-40 season was estimated to be the largest on record. But the entire Australian production has been purchased by the United Kingdom. Only small quantities of this wool are being released to neutral countries at the present time, and selling prices are fixed by the British Government Wool Control. The United Kingdom has purchased the entire clip of New Zealand also. As New Zealand production is almost entirely medium and coarse wools, which are used largely in military requirements, little of this wool is likely to be available for export to neutral countries.

FOREIGN SITUATION

South African sales and exports

Wool prices in South Africa continued to advance in February. England, France and Italy were the principal buyers. Sales to the United States declined in February. The long wool season in South Africa is about over. Wools now arriving at selling centers are chiefly short wools.

Disposals 1/ of wool at South African selling centers in the first 7 months (July-January) of the 1939-40 season were about 10 percent smaller than in the same months last season. Receipts also were smaller than a year earlier. Unsold stocks at selling centers on January 31 were about the same as a year earlier, when 17 million pounds were reported, and were about 40 percent smaller than average January 31 stocks in the 5 years 1934-38.

Exports of wool from the Union of South Africa from July through January totaled 87 million pounds compared with 143 million pounds exported in

1/ Includes auction and private sales and wool shipped unsold.

the same months last season and an average of 121 million pounds for those months in the 5 seasons 1933-34 to 1937-38. Stocks of wool at ports, awaiting shipment, were large in January.

Exports from South Africa to the United States from July through January totaled about 31 million pounds, or a little more than one-third of the total quantity exported. Ordinarily the United States imports only small quantities of South African wool. Exports to the United States averaged only 2 million pounds annually from 1933 through 1937.

Prices of 64-70s wools in South African markets in the 1939-40 season, with comparisons 1/

Item	1937 high	1938-39 season 2/		1939-40 season 2/ 3/				
	Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
64-70s	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Super combing	68.0	38.9	39.4	50.2	47.6	47.7	52.4	57.7
Combing	65.9	36.8	36.7	46.9	44.3	45.0	49.4	53.2
Short combing	62.9	33.9	34.8	38.1	35.6	39.4	42.9	44.4
Super shorts	56.8	31.6	33.2	33.7	31.9	34.9	38.8	40.6

Compiled from South Africa Crops and Markets and cabled reports from the American Legation in South Africa.

1/ Quotations are in cents per pound, clean basis.

2/ Season begins July 1.

3/ Preliminary.

Wool exports from the Union of South Africa in the first 7 months (July-January) of the 1939-40 exporting season, with comparisons

Country to which exported	1938-39	1939-40 1/		
	July-Jan.	July-Dec.	Jan. 2/	July-Jan. 2/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
United States	0.4	21.2	9.4	30.6
United Kingdom	22.4	5.9	5.7	11.6
France	32.0	9.7	5.5	15.2
Germany	57.9	1.0	---	1.0
Belgium	11.9	3.0	2.2	5.2
Italy	12.6	3.4	0.6	4.0
Japan	0.3	6.5	1.9	8.4
Other	5.7	7.0	3.2	10.2
Total	143.2	57.7	3/ 29.3	3/ 87.0

Compiled from South Africa Crops and Markets and cabled reports from London and Pretoria.

1/ Preliminary.

2/ January exports by countries are for grease wool only. Data for scoured wool, totaling 824,000 pounds not yet available by countries.

3/ Includes exports of scoured wool not reported by countries, for January.

Prices higher in South American markets

Wool prices advanced sharply in South American markets in January and the early part of February. Prices in Uruguay currency in the week ended February 16 were about 20 percent higher than in the first week of January. Demand has been particularly strong for medium and coarse crossbred wools, and stocks of these grades at Montevideo were reported to be small.

Prices per pound of greasy wool at Montevideo in the 1939-40 season

Description	Dec. 1939	Jan. 1940	Week ended Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Merinos	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Fine crossbreds:					
Best (Supras)	2/ 25.5	26.0	27.2	27.8	30.8
Good (Buenos)	2/ 24.3	24.4	25.4	26.0	28.5
Medium crossbreds:					
Best	25.5	25.9	26.6	27.8	31.1
Good	25.1	25.1	25.4	26.0	29.1
Coarse crossbreds:					
Best	25.4	26.2	26.6	27.8	31.5
Good	24.7	25.3	25.4	26.0	30.5

Compiled from weekly reports of Camara Mercantil de Productos del Pais. Prices are averages of weekly range quotations, converted to cents at controlled rate of exchange for Uruguay peso as reported by Federal Reserve (65.8300 cents per peso for period shown).
1/ No quotations available. 2/ Two weeks only.

South American exports smaller than last year

Exports from Uruguay in the first 4 months (October-January) of the 1939-40 season totaled 33.2 million pounds. Exports from October through January were slightly smaller than in the same months last year and were 35 percent smaller than the 5-year (1933-34 to 1937-38) average. Difficulties in securing shipping space are said to be responsible, in part, for the decline in exports. About one-half of the quantity shipped from Uruguay in the first 4 months of the season was consigned to the United States. United States purchases in Uruguay in the current season have been larger than usual.

Exports from Argentina from October through January of the current season were about 20 percent smaller than in the same months of the 1938-39 season, but they were larger than in the 1937-38 season. Largest shipments from Argentina in the current season have been to the United States. Exports by classes from October through January of the last three seasons are shown in the accompanying table.

Argentina: Exports of wool by classes in the first 4 months of the 1939-40 season, with comparisons

Class	Oct. 1 - Sept. 30: 1937-38	1938-39 1/	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31: 1937-38	1938-39	1939-40 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Grease wool:					
Fine (merino)	29.9	24.9	7.5	6.6	4.5
Crossbred-					
Fine	89.3	85.0	16.0	26.9	18.6
Medium	23.6	29.7	7.1	11.0	15.3
Low	75.0	130.4	13.2	66.1	39.4
Criollo or native	5.6	10.7	.2	4.1	5.7
Bellies	9.9	14.8	2.0	5.6	2.0
Washed wool(grease equivalent) 2/	19.0	25.4	6.7	9.6	9.2
Scoured wool(grease equivalent) 2/	40.9	54.5	10.2	21.8	22.5
Total all wool, grease basis:	293.2	375.4	62.9	151.7	117.2

Argentine Bureau of Statistics.
1/ Preliminary.
2/ Not reported by classes.

World Wool Production

World wool production apparently reached a new peak in 1939. Production in 1939 exclusive of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and China, is provisionally estimated at 3.6 billion pounds, on the basis of reports from 24 countries which in 1938 produced 85 percent of the world total (excluding the Soviet Union and China). The 1939 estimate is an increase of 3 percent over production in 1938 and is about 7 percent larger than the 5-year (1933-37) average.

World wool production (including the Soviet Union and China which produce mostly carpet wool) increased from 3.0 billion pounds in 1923 to 3.8 billion pounds in 1929. Production declined from 1930 through 1934 but the recovery which followed carried production in 1938 to the highest amount on record. The 1938 total apparently was exceeded in 1939.

The increase in world production in 1939 compared with 1938 was due chiefly to the estimated increase of 125 million pounds in the production of Australia and the Union of South Africa, the principal fine wool-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere. If the preliminary estimates are confirmed, total production in these two countries in 1939 will be close to the record quantity produced in 1932. Production in Australia in 1939 was estimated to be about 30 million pounds larger than in 1932. But production in the Union of South Africa was about 50 million pounds smaller than in 1932.

Production declined slightly in 1939 in New Zealand, Argentina, and Uruguay, the Southern Hemisphere countries which produce mostly medium and coarse

wools. But except for 1938, total production in these countries in 1939 was the highest on record. The 1939 production in Uruguay has been exceeded in earlier years, but increased production in New Zealand has more than offset the decline in Uruguay.

Changes in world supplies of raw wool, other than carpet wool, are determined largely by the production in five Southern Hemisphere countries, Australia, Union of South Africa, New Zealand, Argentina, and Uruguay. The bulk of the production of these countries is exported each season. Production of fine and medium grades of wool in Northern Hemisphere countries is utilized largely in the country where produced.

Supplies of wool, other than carpet wool, available for unrestricted export in the current season are limited largely to the production of South American countries and the Union of South Africa. The United Kingdom has arranged to purchase the entire wool production of Australia and New Zealand during the period of the European war and one clip thereafter. Limited quantities of Australian wool have been sold to neutral countries since December, however, and it appears likely that additional quantities of Australian wool will be available in the future. The wool clip of New Zealand, which is almost entirely medium and coarse wools, will be used largely in the production of military supplies. Little of this wool is likely to be available for export to neutral countries.

The trend in production in five Southern Hemisphere countries, the United States, and the United Kingdom, 1909-39, is shown in table 3. World wool production by countries, 1934-39, is shown in table 2.

United States wool production, 1939

Wool production in the United States in 1939 totaled 441,897,000 pounds compared with 436,472,000 pounds produced in 1938, according to estimates of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Production of shorn wool totaled 377,397,000 pounds in 1939 and production of pulled wool 64,500,000 pounds. Production of shorn wool in 1939 was about 5 million pounds larger than in 1938, with the greater part of the increase in the native sheep States.

Estimates of production, price per pound, and cash farm income from shorn wool, by States for 1938 and 1939 are given in the accompanying table.

Table 1.-Wool production and income in the United States, 1938 and 1939

State and division	1938					1939				
	Sheep shorn 1/	Weight per fleece 2/	Production	Price per pound	Cash farm income	Sheep shorn 1/	Weight per fleece 2/	Production	Price per pound	Cash farm income
	Thousands	Lb.	1,000 lb.	Cents	1,000 dol.	Thousands	Lb.	1,000 lb.	Cents	1,000 dol.
Maine	43	6.0	258	21	54	43	6.2	267	22	59
N. H.	9	6.3	57	21	12	9	6.6	59	23	14
Vt.	22	6.7	147	21	31	21	6.8	143	23	33
Mass.	7	6.1	43	22	9	7	6.3	44	24	11
R. I.	2	6.0	12	22	3	2	6.0	12	26	3
Conn.	5	6.0	30	22	7	5	5.6	28	26	7
N. Y.	320	7.2	2,304	20	461	311	7.4	2,301	23	529
N. J.	5	6.1	30	23	7	5	6.0	30	23	7
Pa.	412	7.3	3,008	22	662	379	7.5	2,842	25	710
N. A.	825	7.1	5,889	21.2	1,246	782	7.3	5,726	24.0	1,373
Ohio	2,276	7.8	17,753	19	3,373	2,230	8.1	18,063	24	4,335
Ind.	700	7.0	4,900	18	882	679	7.5	5,092	24	1,222
Ill.	698	7.8	5,419	18	975	738	7.8	5,776	23	1,328
Mich.	1,043	7.7	8,031	18	1,446	1,043	8.1	8,448	24	2,028
Wis.	396	7.5	2,970	18	535	384	7.6	2,918	22	642
E.N.C.	5,113	7.6	39,073	18.5	7,211	5,074	7.9	40,297	23.7	9,555
Minn.	1,000	7.8	7,800	18	1,404	980	8.0	7,840	21	1,646
Iowa	1,228	7.9	9,701	18	1,746	1,250	7.9	9,875	22	2,172
Mo.	1,332	6.5	8,635	19	1,641	1,380	6.8	9,387	23	2,159
N. Dak.	722	8.5	6,137	16	982	736	8.7	6,403	18	1,153
S. Dak.	1,078	8.4	9,055	17	1,539	1,143	9.0	10,287	20	2,057
Nebr.	326	7.6	2,456	15	368	396	8.0	3,157	18	568
Kans.	485	7.4	3,566	15	535	456	8.2	3,753	18	676
W.N.C.	6,171	7.7	47,350	17.3	8,215	6,341	8.0	50,702	20.6	10,431
Del.	3	6.5	20	22	4	3	6.7	20	25	5
Md.	70	6.0	420	22	92	66	6.3	416	25	104
Va.	364	4.8	1,747	22	384	352	5.0	1,760	26	458
W. Va.	503	5.0	2,515	23	578	493	5.2	2,564	25	641
N. C.	54	5.1	275	22	60	52	4.6	239	24	57
S. C.	9	4.3	39	23	9	9	4.2	38	25	10
Ga.	27	3.6	97	22	21	28	3.6	101	23	23
Fla.	32	3.3	106	22	23	32	3.0	96	22	21
S. A.	1,062	4.9	5,219	22.4	1,171	1,035	5.1	5,234	25.2	1,319
Ky.	1,021	5.2	5,309	21	1,115	1,052	5.4	5,681	25	1,420
Tenn.	349	4.4	1,536	21	323	370	4.4	1,628	24	391
Ala.	42	3.6	151	22	33	40	3.7	148	21	31
Miss.	62	3.3	205	20	41	61	3.2	195	20	39
Ark.	62	4.4	273	18	49	65	4.5	292	20	58
La.	225	3.4	765	20	153	235	3.3	776	21	163
Okla.	228	8.5	1,938	16	310	260	8.1	2,106	16	337
Tex.	9,742	8.1	79,305	21	16,654	9,844	7.9	77,290	24	18,550
S. C.	11,731	7.6	89,482	20.9	18,678	11,927	7.4	88,116	23.8	20,989
Mont.	2,550	9.9	25,245	19	4,797	2,830	9.5	26,885	22	5,915
Idaho	1,920	9.1	17,463	19	3,318	1,805	9.2	16,606	22	3,653
Wyo.	3,236	9.7	31,389	18	5,650	3,395	9.7	32,932	21	6,916
Colo.	1,588	8.1	12,862	18	2,315	1,635	8.1	13,244	22	2,914
N. Mex.	2,169	7.1	15,400	18	2,772	2,133	7.1	15,168	21	3,185
Ariz.	781	6.5	5,040	18	907	769	6.3	4,856	21	1,020
Utah	2,237	8.9	19,909	19	3,783	2,235	8.7	19,444	21	4,083
Nev.	759	7.8	5,920	19	1,125	760	8.0	6,080	21	1,277
Wash.	644	9.3	5,995	18	1,079	654	9.3	6,074	21	1,276
Oreg.	1,923	9.1	17,499	19	3,325	1,899	8.9	16,901	22	3,718
Calif.	3,900	7.2	28,237	20	5,647	4,120	7.1	29,132	23	6,700
Western	21,707	8.5	184,959	18.8	34,718	22,235	8.4	187,322	21.7	40,657
U. S.	46,609	7.98	371,972	19.2	71,239	47,394	7.96	377,397	22.3	84,324
U. S. 3/			64,500					64,500		

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.
2/ For Texas and California the weight per fleece is the amount of wool shorn per sheep and lamb shorn during the year.
3/ Pulled wool.

Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 2.- Wool: Production in specified countries and estimated world production, 1934-39

Country	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Millio pounds
North and Central America and West Indies						
United States						
Shorn	370.3	364.7	360.3	366.6	372.0	377.
Pulled 2/	60.5	66.0	66.2	66.2	64.5	64.
Total	430.8	430.7	426.5	432.8	436.5	441.
Canada	17.6	17.8	17.4	17.6	17.7	17.
Mexico	10.3	(10.3)	(10.3)	(10.3)	(10.3)	
Other	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)	
Total North and Central America and West Indies	459.1	459.2	454.6	461.1	464.9	
South America						
Peru 3/	11.2	10.1	12.3	12.5	10.3	
Chile	37.0	35.2	35.7	33.0	3/29.0	
Brazil	36.4	37.5	37.5	39.7	4/40.5	
Uruguay 5/	118.7	112.6	116.2	116.3	125.4	122.
Argentina 6/	348.0	365.0	374.0	366.0	399.0	384.
Falkland Islands	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.6	
Other	(16.0)	(16.0)	(16.0)	(16.0)	(16.0)	
Total South America	571.3	580.6	595.7	587.5	624.8	
Europe						
England and Wales	85.0	79.0	78.0	77.0	80.0	
Scotland	24.8	24.0	24.0	27.1	28.7	
Northern Ireland	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8	
Total United Kingdom	112.3	105.6	104.6	106.7	111.5 4/	111.
Irish Free State	17.0	16.5	17.6 4/	16.4 4/	17.9 4/	17.
Iceland	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	(1.6)	
Norway	6.0	5.7	5.9	5.9 4/	5.9	
Sweden 4/	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	
Denmark	(1.1)	(1.4)	(1.6)	1.9	2.0	
Netherlands 4/	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.2	3.
Belgium	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.
France	36.4	36.8	38.4	39.7 4/	40.5 4/	40.
Spain	(68.0)	71.0	(71.0)	(71.0)	(71.0)	
Portugal	7.2	7.2	9.5	(9.5)	(9.5)	
Italy	38.1	37.5 4/	36.3 4/	37.7 4/	39.2	
Switzerland	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)	
Germany	28.8	30.7	34.6	38.2	41.3	42.
Austria	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	
Czechoslovakia	2.1	2.2	3.0	3.1 4/	3.3 4/	3.
Hungary	11.0	13.0	14.6	15.0	17.6	19.
Yugoslavia 4/	31.1	32.1	33.3	34.6	35.8	36.
Greece	16.7	17.3	18.3	18.5 4/	17.7 4/	17.
Albania	4.3	4.5	4.7	(4.5)	4.4	

Continued-

Table 2.- Wool: Production in specified countries and estimated world production, 1934-39 -Continued

Country	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Europe Cont'd.						
Bulgaria 4/	23.2	23.2	23.5	22.7	23.0	23.6
Rumania	68.0	60.3	(61.0)	60.2 4/	63.1 4/	65.1
Lithuania	3.8	3.8 4/	3.7	3.7 4/	3.5 4/	3.5
Latvia	4.6	5.3 4/	5.3	5.6 4/	5.8 4/	6.3
Estonia	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.5 4/	2.7
Poland 4/	9.6	10.8	11.1	11.7	12.5	
Finland	3.6	3.7	3.7	(3.9)	(3.9)	
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	130.0	160.0	200.0	260.0	300.0	
Total Europe excluding Soviet Union	504.8	499.4	512.6	521.1	540.2	
Africa						
Morocco	29.1	33.4	33.4	37.3 4/	36.6	
Algeria 4/	41.2	43.6	47.9	46.8	44.5	
Tunisia 4/	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.8	5.5	
French West Africa and French Sudan 4/	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.8	(2.8)	
Egypt 4/	5.6	5.7	6.0	7.7	(5.0)	
British South Africa	210.0	238.0	264.0	233.0	248.0	270.0
Other	(4.0)	(4.0)	(4.0)	(4.0)	(4.0)	
Total Africa	297.9	332.5	362.8	337.4	346.4	
Asia 7/						
Turkey 8/	30.9	35.3	48.9	54.2	59.5 4/	63.5
Iraq	17.7	18.5	19.4	17.2 3/	10.1	
Palestine	0.7	(0.7)	0.7	0.8	(0.8)	
Iran (Persia)	47.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	
Syria	9.8	6.8	8.4	8.0	6.4	5.3
Afghanistan	(15.0)	(15.0)	(15.0)	(15.0)	(15.0)	
India 4/	87.7	84.3	84.3	84.3	(84.3)	
China 9/	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	
Other	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	
Total Asia excluding Soviet Union and China	209.8	211.6	227.7	230.5	227.1	
Oceania						
Australia	1,015.4	971.1	982.8	1,023.4	985.0 10/	1,090.0
New Zealand	265.0	304.3	302.9	296.8	327.7 4/	322.0
Other	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	
Total Oceania	1,280.5	1,275.5	1,285.8	1,320.3	1,312.8	

Continued-

Table 2.- Wool: Production in specified countries and estimated world production, 1934-39 -Continued

Country	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Estimated world total excluding Soviet Union and China 11/	3,320.0	3,360.0	3,440.0	3,460.0	3,520.0	12/3,630.0
Estimated world total including Soviet Union and China 11/	3,530.0	3,600.0	3,720.0	3,800.0	3,900.0	

Compiled from official sources except as otherwise noted. Since many countries do not publish official wool production figures, production has been estimated. In some cases reliable commercial estimates have been used. This table includes wool shorn during the calendar year in the Northern Hemisphere, and that shorn during the season beginning July 1 or October 1 of the given calendar year in the Southern Hemisphere. Pulled wool is included for most important countries at its grease equivalent. Figures in parentheses interpolated.

Owing to unsettled conditions in Europe in 1939, it is not certain that estimates contained data for the total territories included in the former boundaries of Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

1/ Preliminary. Figures for earlier years may be revised on the basis of later information.
2/ Weight reported by pulleries and is mostly washed. 3/ Estimates based on exports alone, or on exports, carry-over, domestic consumption and any other available information. 4/ Estimates based on sheep numbers at date nearest shearing time and other available information. 5/ Estimates of Camara Mercantil de Productos del Pais. Based on exports, stocks and domestic consumption.
6/ Estimates of the Buenos Aires Branch of the First National Bank of Boston. Based on exports, domestic consumption and carry-over.
7/ Estimates for Asiatic countries are rough approximations.
8/ Estimates published by the Banque Centrale de la Turquie.
9/ Estimates based on sheep numbers, 1933-35 and estimate published in Chinese Economic Bulletin June 1937. Former Manchuria, Turkestan and Inner Mongolia included with China.
10/ Based on December estimate of the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia.
11/ Totals rounded to tens of millions.
12/ Estimate based on reports from 24 countries which produced 85 percent of the world production (excluding Soviet Union and China) in 1938.

Table 3.-Wool production in 5 Southern Hemisphere countries, the United States, and the United Kingdom, 1909-39

Year	Principal exporting countries					United States			United Kingdom and Irish Free State
	Fine wool principally		Medium and coarse wool predominates						
	Australia	Union of South Africa 1/	New Zealand 2/	Argentina 3/	Uruguay 4/	Shorn	Pulled 5/	Total	
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1909	740	132	221	354	103	310	41	351	142
1910	788	132	212	369	113	306	40	346	143
1911	798	162	219	356	133	302	41	343	137
1912	687	169	224	326	123	278	41	319	133
1913	771	175	224	302	102	266	43	309	125
1914	735	182	234	275	82	251	43	294	121
1915	636	175	(232)	322	61	241	40	281	122
1916	637	179	6/ 213	370	79	244	44	288	124
1917	634	(175)	230	7/380	77	237	40	277	125
1918	736	(180)	255	7/418	119	254	42	296	120
1919	762	177	237	7/355	118	270	48	318	116
1920	625	182	208	7/315	113	251	43	294	108
1921	723	188	219	316	108	242	48	290	108
1922	727	184	246	332	96	228	42	270	109
1923	663	198	235	312	106	230	43	273	109
1924	777	210	8/ 254	313	92	238	44	282	115
1925	834	225	8/ 238	312	116	253	47	300	122
1926	924	260	9/ 256	309	132	269	50	319	128
1927	888	291	253	322	134	290	50	340	132
1928	968	311	263	331	130	315	52	367	132
1929	938	304	262	331	151	328	54	382	131
1930	913	305	259	342	153	352	62	414	130
1931	1,007	305	270	364	106	376	66	442	132
1932	1,063	319	277	364	110	351	67	418	139
1933	996	275	290	364	105	374	64	438	140
1934	1,015	210	265	348	119	370	61	431	129
1935	971	238	304	365	113	365	66	431	122
1936	983	264	303	374	116	361	66	427	122
1937	1,023	233	297	366	116	367	66	433	123
1938	985	248	328	399	125	372	64	436	129
1939 10/	1,090	270	322	384	122	377	64	442	129

Continued -

Table 3.-Wool production in 5 Southern Hemisphere countries, the United States, and the United Kingdom, 1909-39 - Continued

Official publications and reliable commercial sources used in the preparation of these estimates. Estimates for Southern Hemisphere countries are based on exports alone or on exports, carry-over, domestic consumption, and other available information. All estimates subject to revision on the basis of later information.

Except as otherwise noted, this table includes wool shorn during the calendar year in the United States and the United Kingdom and that shorn during the season beginning July 1 of the same calendar year in Australia, Union of South Africa and New Zealand; October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

Pulled wool included for most important countries at its grease equivalent.

1/ Season beginning September 1 up to and including 1916. Subsequent years season beginning July 1. Estimates exclude wool exported on skins. Such wool averaged about 20 million pounds a year in the last 10 years.
2/ Season beginning October 1 up to and including 1925-26; subsequent years season beginning July 1. Exports of wool and wool on skins plus quantities of wool purchased by domestic mills, all converted to a grease basis. Adjustment made for stocks in 1926-27 and subsequent years.
3/ Computed from exports converted to a grease basis and consumption. Adjustment made for stocks subsequent to 1911.
4/ Seasons 1909-10 to 1930-31 shipments from Montevideo. Subsequent years estimates of production taking consumption and stocks into account.
5/ Published as reported by pulleries and is mostly washed.
6/ Estimates for seasons 1916-17 to 1923-24 are those of Dalgety and Company. Owing to lack of estimates of carry-over during the war when stocks accumulated greatly, exports plus local consumption do not represent production adequately for those years. It is assumed that in these estimates some adjustment was made for carry-over, although scoured and pulled wool have not been converted to a grease basis.
7/ Stocks accumulated during these years, especially at the close of the World War and official estimates are not available. These estimates are based on exports, local consumption and carry-over as reported unofficially.
8/ Estimates of Imperial Economic Committee based on exports of wool and wool on skins, wool consumption and carry-over all converted to a grease basis.
9/ Estimates for this and subsequent years recently officially revised on basis of more exact conversion of scoured, pulled and washed wool to a grease basis.
10/ Preliminary.

Table 4.- Prices of wool and textile raw materials in the United States, specified periods, 1938-40

Item	Average		High 1939	1939		1940	
	1938	1939	1/	Feb.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Boston market							
Territory, scoured basis							
64s, 70s, 80s(fine)staple ..	70.4	82.7	109.5	73.8	105.8	104.7	99.0
56s (3/8 blood) combing	58.9	69.3	94.1	61.0	85.9	82.8	81.0
46s (low 1/4 blood)	52.4	62.6	87.5	54.0	79.0	76.1	76.6
Bright fleece, greasy							
64s, 70s,80s(fine) delaine ..	29.0	32.9	43.0	29.5	41.2	40.7	38.5
56s (3/8 blood) combing	29.5	36.2	48.8	32.0	46.0	44.5	42.4
46s (Low 1/4 blood)	28.3	35.5	49.0	30.5	45.5	44.0	42.0
Price received by farmers, grease basis, 15th of month	19.2	22.3	28.7	20.2	27.5	28.1	27.8
Textile fibers							
Wool, Terr. fine staple 2/..	70.4	82.7	109.5	73.8	105.8	104.7	99.0
Cotton 7/8 Middling 3/.....	8.58	9.04	10.39	8.52	10.39	10.62	10.63
Silk, Japanese 4/.....	170.6	272.6	392.1	211.4	392.1	368.3	306.1
Rayon yarn, 150 denier 5/...	52.2	51.5	53.0	51.0	53.0	53.0	53.0

Compiled from reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service, except as otherwise specified.

Yearly averages are averages of monthly prices except United States farm price, which is a weighted average.

1/ Monthly average.
2/ Scoured basis, Boston market.
3/ Average at 10 markets.
4/ White 13-15 denier, at New York, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
5/ Domestic yarn, first quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 5.- United States: Wool imports, consumption and machinery activity, specified periods, 1937-40

Item	1937	1938	1939	1939		1940
				Jan.	Dec.	Jan.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Imports for consumption actual weight: 1/						
Apparel	150,160	30,811	98,194	6,099	15,891	24,266
Finer than 40s	126,601	18,443	74,612	3,849	14,699	22,110
Not finer than 40s	23,559	12,369	23,582	2,250	1,192	2,156
Carpet, including camel's hair	172,091	71,908	144,874	15,669	9,839	20,498
Consumption, scoured basis: 2/						
Weekly average-						
Apparel	5,273	4,143	5,636	5,188	5,595	5,638
Carpet	2,050	1,225	1,989	1,957	1,916	1,941
Aggregate-						
Apparel	274,217	219,565	293,083	25,941	22,378	28,189
Carpet	106,620	64,945	103,421	9,784	7,665	9,703
	Weekly average in hours					
Machinery activity: 2/ Hours operated per machine in place						
Worsted combs	46.1	39.8	51.8	49.5	51.1	52.8
Worsted spindles	32.9	26.9	39.5	40.9	40.5	34.5
Woolen spindles	43.1	30.6	39.7	40.0	41.8	41.3
Woolen and worsted looms-						
Broad	39.0	28.1	40.6	44.3	47.8	43.4
Narrow	20.4	10.5	13.2	11.7	15.4	13.6
Carpet and rug looms-						
Broad	28.6	23.4	37.4	34.1	41.7	42.0
Narrow		15.9	22.9	22.4	21.8	23.0

Import figures from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Consumption and machinery activity from the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Weight of greasy, scoured, and skin wool added together.
2/ Figures for January based on 5 weeks, December on 4 weeks; 1938 totals based on 53 weeks. No adjustment made for holidays.